

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, and 31 have been previously canceled, without prejudice. Applicants have reserved the right to file a divisional application to these Claims.

Claims 22, 24, and 27 have been amended herewith. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at least on page 2, lines 25-30, and page 32, lines 19-28. Applicants respectfully submit no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claims 22, 24, 27, and 29 stand rejected as follows.

Claims 22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,514,122). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches an aqueous adhesive composition and an article comprising same wherein the adhesive is transfer coatable, both having an aqueous suspension of solid polymeric acrylic microspheres produced by a process using a non-free radically polymerizable acid.

Morris teaches a disposable absorbent article having hollow polymeric microspheres, where the microspheres are produced using free radically polymerizable monomers of acrylate, methacrylate, or vinyl ester. Morris does not teach or suggest a transfer coatable adhesive composition having solid microspheres produced using a non-free radically polymerizable acid.

The Examiner has noted in the Advisory Action mailed July 9, 2004, that Morris also discloses solid microspheres produced by a one-step emulsification process. Applicants assert that the microspheres discussed in Morris as referenced by the Examiner at column 4, lines 58-65, differ from Applicants' invention as claimed. The solid microspheres of Applicants' invention are not produced by the one-step process

discussed in Morris, nor do the microspheres in Morris contain the same compositions as the spheres in Applicants' invention at least as defined in Claim 22.

Applicants maintain that Morris does not teach or suggest the adhesive composition and article of Applicants' invention. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Morris. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is not supported. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 24 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morris *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches a transfer coatable adhesive composition and article as described above. Claims 24 and 29 are dependent claims teaching a specific dry film peel value range for the composition and article, respectively.

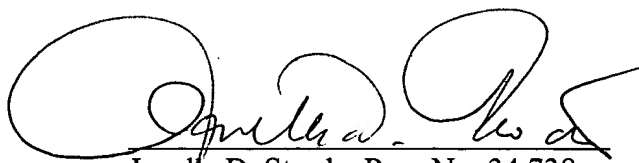
Morris teaches a disposable absorbent article having hollow polymeric microspheres, where the microspheres are produced using free radically polymerizable monomers of acrylate, methacrylate, or vinyl ester. Morris does not teach or suggest transfer coatable adhesives, nor adhesives having any specified dry film peel value. Applicants maintain the Examiner is incorrect in asserting that the similarity in compositions of Applicants' invention and those provided in Morris would lead one to believe that the adhesive compositions of Morris must inherently have a peel force within the claimed range. Applicants assert that the adhesive compositions are produced by different processes as discussed above, are different compositions, and have different functions. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morris *et al.* are not supported. Applicants request withdrawal of same.

CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", is written over a horizontal line.

Janelle D. Strode, Reg. No. 34,738
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400
Kansas City, MO 64108-2612
Tel: (816) 460-5859
Fax: (816) 292-2001
Attorney for Applicants